

IT'S ANOTHER CUP MARATHON!

**Wycombe Wanderers 3
Aylesbury United 2
(after extra time)**

By ALAN BENNETT

THE Aylesbury United replay machine was cranked up to full throttle again at Loakes Park on Tuesday night.

Two more hours of football failed to send either of the sides through to the third round of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, and they have all got to come back to The Stadium to try again.

Financially, it was a good result for United, but it is another dent in their hopes of getting some league games played off. The backlog is already pretty serious.

With extra time, we can't coin the old phrase that it was a game of two halves, but it was certainly a game of distinct phases. Wander-

ers could and should have buried Aylesbury without trace in the first half when United looked like a batch of strangers, but the visitors wore the trousers for long periods after that.

As a match, it never compared with the Barnet tie for excitement. There were enough quality players to ensure it wasn't a rank bad game, but at times it was a pretty ordinary one.

Even Wycombe's late equaliser seemed more of an irritation than the full blown disaster reaction that greeted Barnet's winner last Monday night.

The first item of note was Wycombe's first goal after just three minutes. Ken Wilson's corner was flicked on by Steve Hardwick and Steve Long knocked it in at the near post.

Keith Baker looked far from secure in goal after

his heroics at Underhill, and he just beat Gary Toll to a through ball and then saw Tony Price's cross hacked fortunately away.

Price was giving Kevin Tilley plenty to think about. After the broken foot scare of last week, it was a surprise Tilley played at all, and he didn't appear too happy in this first half. He later improved to something approaching his remarkable form of late, but 100 per cent he was not.

By way of comic entertainment, our friend Mr. R. E. Chaffer from Windsor was referee again. This yellow card on legs was up to his tricks after 14 minutes when Bobby Davis and Gary Harthill were involved in a bit of pushing and shoving. It merited no more than a word, but out came the card. Davis, in particular, who has a fine disciplinary record,

looked utterly flabbergasted.

Harthill was buzzing about well at this stage, and Billy Holmes headed his cross just over. The ball was then just scrambled clear when Chris Nash knocked George Rorg into the middle of next week and crossed hard and low.

Toll then missed a great opportunity after Long waltzed round Markham, and Nash was twice close at the other end as United began to pull their game together at last.

Wilson's free kick found its way through to Baker, and then the keeper made an astonishing blunder. He left a ball to go out but Jimmy Jacobs turned it past him across the goal. Markham, not for the first or last time on the night, cleared the danger.

Wanderers forced three corners in a row, and then

Price's shot was parried by Baker and again whacked desperately clear. Wilson shot over and United must have been happy with 1-0 as a half time score.

After 48 minutes, Aylesbury at last won a corner, and Wycombe then took their bookings to two when Wilson fouled Dave O'Reilly.

O'Reilly, for me, was far and away the best player on the field. His tireless running, even towards the end of the two hours, and his skill on the ball have never been more evident. All this on a pitch where mountaineering skill was just as important as football ability.

Aylesbury had an appeal for handball turned down in an incident that immediately had play going to the other end with Wycombe on a 3-1 break. They fluffed it,

Danger man Price cut inside two tackles and fired wide, then came the footballing 'highlight' of the night on 64 minutes.

Peter Mead, in rugby terms, was found on the burst, beating the home offside trap. Gary Lester pushed his shot against the post but the United skipper carried on to smack the ball in for a brilliant goal.

After Price had again threatened to punish Baker's hesitancy, United thought they might have had another penalty when Dave Jones set Harthill free with a brilliant pass.

He went crashing down but Mr. Chaffer wasn't impressed. Neither was I, for what it's worth. Harthill was injured and after struggling on bravely, had to be substituted by Dave Parratt in extra time.

Harthill, after a long spell of treatment, came

back to briefly threaten, but it was left to Markham to clear the last spell of normal time danger at the other end from Wycombe's first corner of the second half in the 90th minute.

Paul West replaced Wilson, and Baker had United fans reaching for the tranquillisers again with a fumble on the line. Up went the flag for a foul, but Mr. Chaffer played on and it would probably have counted.

Jacobs joined the Chaffer clan with a booking for a foul again on O'Reilly — it was the only way they could stop him. Harthill's last active touch was nearly a goal. Hardwick just got there after more brilliant work by O'Reilly.

Davis stopped Holmes as he moved on to a John Bailey pass, and then Baker showed his true colours with a lovely

clean catch from hit Long shot.

Back to the O'Reilly show. 115 minutes gone, clock, he forced into the area to in the act of sh penalty it was, s Jones scored wi and placement if Lester did ev right and still where near it.

Another fun Baker had y clearing off the in the worst tra marking — Unit pretty ropey all Long had time to spot and pick u anything else in with just two mir He duly beat B earned the repla;

On balance, fair result — b nothing more th game.